



Does the Man Owe You Money? Page 16

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JUNE 28, 2024

NYPA Newspaper of the Year



The bronze bust of George Washington was temporarily removed on Thursday (June 27) for construction. Photo by J. Simms

Plan Announced for Downstate Prison

Fishkill officials pan housing proposal

By Jeff Simms

s part of Gov. Kathy Hochul's quest to build 15,000 homes and apartments to address New York's housing crisis, the state on June 21 announced that Conifer Realty has been selected to redevelop the shuttered Downstate Correctional Facility just north of Beacon.

The Rochester-based company said it will convert the 80-acre former maximumsecurity prison in the Town of Fishkill over the next decade into a mixed-use campus with community space and up to 1,300 housing units.

Downstate, which opened in 1979, sits north of Interstate 84. It was among a half-dozen correctional facilities closed by the state in 2022 due to declining inmate populations. It is the first of those facilities with a redevelopment plan.

Conifer's project must be approved (Continued on Page 7)

Fishkill/Teller Avenues Project Kicks Off in Beacon

Road reconstruction has been planned for decades By Jeff Simms

eorge may be gone, but it's not for good.

City contractors on Thursday (June 27) removed the George Washington bust from its island at Teller and Wolcott

avenues in Beacon as they prepare to reconstruct the tricky intersection. The monument will be stored at the city's highway garage while the intersection is rebuilt as a "T" in the coming weeks to improve visibility and pedestrian and driver safety.

Once complete, the bronze monument will be installed with landscaping on the north side of Teller. The Daughters of the American Revolution placed it at the intersection in 1999 to mark the bicentennial of Washington's death.

The move is one of the first visible changes to come as part of a 14-month, \$9 million project to rebuild Teller and Fishkill Avenue, as it's known north of Main Street. The nearly mile-long stretch from Teller and Wolcott to Fishkill and Blackburn Avenue, near Ron's Ice Cream, will be (Continued on Page 9)

Reporter's Notebook Beyond Parking

By Michael Turton

he decades-long public debate over Cold Spring's "parking problem" has produced mindsets rang-



ing from denial, frustration and anger, to analytical, resistant and satisfied.

Call me peculiar, but in my experience, when I hear the P word I think of humor, adventure, education, creativity and the supernatural.

Channeling Joni Mitchell, I can say I've looked at parking from all sides now.

First, a confession. I've written about parking for *The Current* more times than countable. So recently, while in Gananoque, Ontario, I had no excuse for not looking around, not noticing a kiosk four spaces away and not paying. So, I have no excuse for the \$25 ticket. It was humbling, bordering on funny. I'll be less critical of visitors to Cold Spring now.

George Carlin opened my eyes to parking's humorous side when he asked why we drive in a parkway but park in a driveway. But back to my unmetered parking world:

In my early teens, my friends and I would camp out on weekends at an abandoned gravel pit near Lovers' Lane. During tomato season, we'd acquire a basket of well-ripened fruit, sneak

up on the unsuspecting parkers, bombard the car with considerable accuracy (we all played baseball) and run like hell. Until writing this column, I never pondered whether the car windows were open.



Cold Spring, Philipstown Join Utility Payout

Beacon to vote Monday on \$1.5 million settlement

By Leonard Sparks

old Spring and Philipstown this week approved a proposed \$1.5 million settlement with a utility company that abandoned a contract to sell renewable electricity to residents and businesses. The Beacon City Council is expected to vote on the proposal on Monday (July 1).

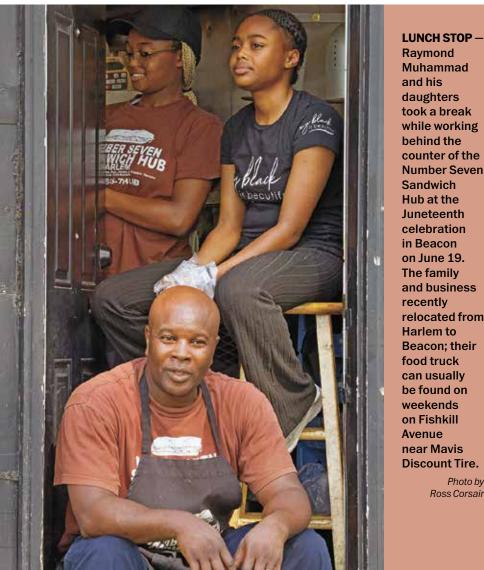
The village and town boards each approved resolutions on Wednesday (June 26) authorizing the settlement with Columbia Utilities, which for two years has fought a lawsuit filed by 10 municipalities that jointly purchased fixed-cost energy under a community choice aggregation (CCA) program called Hudson Valley Community Power.

Among the CCA's other former members, the Town of Red Hook, the Village of New Paltz and the Town of New Paltz have approved the proposal. The City of Poughkeepsie and the towns of Clinton, Marbletown and Saugerties have not yet voted.

If approved by the state judge in Ulster County handling the lawsuit, Columbia Utilities would admit no wrongdoing but pay \$1 million into a settlement fund by Aug. 1 and the balance in monthly \$50,000 payments by June 1, 2025.

(Continued on Page 8)

A few summers later, I found myself (Continued on Page 5)



while working behind the counter of the Number Seven Sandwich Hub at the Juneteenth celebration in Beacon on June 19. The family and business recently relocated from Harlem to Beacon: their food truck can usually be found on weekends on Fishkill Avenue near Mavis **Discount Tire.** Photo by Ross Corsai



FIVE QUESTIONS: HATTIE HESS

By Marc Ferris

H attie Hess, known as "Miz Hattie," recently sold her barbecue stand at the Hudson Valley Food Hall in Beacon.

Why did you decide to sell?

I'm getting old, so I better do something. I've never traveled in my life or enjoyed the simple things, like watching butterflies in my backyard. [She planted milkweed to attract them.] I've always worked hard and — guess what — I'm still doing catering. I turned my garage into a catering kitchen and built a professional-grade smoking area. I'm going to do Friday night, downhome, members-only fish fries. I am going back to North Carolina one day, but I'm not ready to take that trip yet. Not today.

How did you end up in Beacon?

I wanted to be a pastry chef and came up to the Culinary Institute [of America, in Hyde Park] in 1986. We were looking for a house and bought the second one we looked at in Beacon, an old Victorian, for \$76,000. I met [basketball coach] Digger Phelps's mom and worked for her, worked at Castle Point with the veterans and then started teaching [special education].



What was it like at the Culinary Institute?

Even though I came from the South, it was the first time I ever experienced point-blank, in-your-face racism, as the only Black person in class. One teacher passing out an assignment walked right past me, didn't even acknowledge me. That made me a stronger person, but they were so arrogant and let me know I was not welcome. Once, I was in the lobby, so hurt, and that same professor walked right past me — I'm crying, boo-hoo — as if I didn't exist. I didn't have completely smooth sailing as a child, but people left me alone. I was a crazy little girl and would fight in a minute.

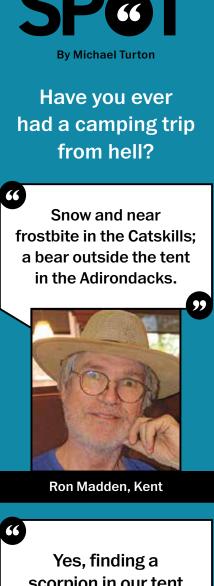
Did you ever think of expanding

beyond the food hall?

I adore the food hall. It was my first selfowned restaurant, and it seems like it came to me and was meant to be. I knew nothing about it until a member of my book club called me up and said, "Hattie, do you know about the new food hall?" And I said, "No, and it's 7 o'clock in the morning." I was in Brothers restaurant and saw a ring of keys on the ground and tapped the man [standing nearby] on the shoulder. He turned around and it was Dave Buckley, the former building inspector. He said, "Hey, Miz Hattie, I just know you're going to the new food hall because you make the best barbecue." So, I went in and it was love at first sight. They said, "Pick out your spot." Everything food-wise has to be authentic and they were choosing carefully to get the mix right.

How did the building inspector know about your food?

He inspected my home kitchen, and I also did all the festivals. Pete Seeger would come by and say, "Don't forget my chicken." I did the Pumpkin Festival, the Strawberry Festival, the Corn Festival, the Clearwater gatherings in Croton-on-Hudson. I did cook-offs in Texas, North Carolina, Virginia, New Paltz. Once, in Texas, my chicken won fifth place out of 500, so that's pretty good.







Amy Birks, Beacon

66

No, I built a cabin for comfortable camping.



Brant Thomas, Nelsonville



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NEWS BRIEFS

Breakneck Tunnel Will Be One Lane

State plans to close for construction

The Breakneck tunnel will be reduced to one lane beginning in mid-July for construction, Nelsonville Mayor Chris Winward said at the Village Board's June 17 meeting.

Winward said that she and other municipal leaders had been informed earlier that day by the state parks department that the southbound lane of the tunnel on state Route 9D would be closed for about four months, with alternating traffic in the northbound lane controlled by traffic lights. A 5-foot-wide walkway will be added to the southbound lane, along with a crosswalk over 9D, she said they were told.

"It's a little shocking that there wasn't a plan in place to inform hikers, so we asked for [state parks] to put one together," said Winward. "July is literally a couple of weeks away."

Trustee Dave Moroney said the plan sounded like a "disaster." He added: "I got a funny feeling that when they make that tunnel one-way for four or five months, all hell's gonna break loose. People aren't happy sitting at a traffic light," especially "because it was a surprise."

Rebeca Ramirez, a representative of the Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail, which is planning to build a pedestrian bridge over the Metro-North tracks on the north side of the tunnel, told the board that the state Department of Transportation was handling the closure and that she had no further information. A DOT representative said she could not provide details but that the agency places electronic signs near the roadway and issues a travel advisory before any lane closure.

The Breakneck trailhead is expected to close in the fall for an extended period because of construction on the Fjord Trail bridge.

Poll Finds 87% Support for Fjord Trail

Project commissioned survey of residents

The Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail (HHFT) says that a poll it commissioned found that 87 percent of respondents who had heard of the proposed 7.5-mile linear park between Cold Spring and Beacon expressed some or strong support for it. Nearly 90 percent said they had a somewhat or very positive view of the project.

The Harris Poll in April surveyed 400 adults who live in Cold Spring, Philipstown, Beacon and Fishkill and 400 residents of surrounding communities. The respondents were selected from people who had previously agreed to participate in Harris polls.

Of the 400 locals, 77 percent said the trail would help manage tourism while 23 percent disagreed, saying it will burden "an already stretched community." The top reasons for support were that the trail would be "designed in an environmentally conscious and resilient way," allow "residents of all abilities to enjoy the outdoors," make the community safer for hikers and boost the regional economy.

Of those locals opposed, the top concerns were its impact on the environment, an increase in visitors, disruptions because of construction and a fear it will change the character of the area.

The sample data is accurate to within plus or minus 8.4 percent in the project area and 6 percent outside, using a 95 percent confidence level. The Harris Poll said the data was weighted by gender, race/ethnicity, education and marital status to reflect proportions in the larger population. The full results are posted at hhft.org/news/announcements.

The Fjord Trail, which is scheduled for completion in 2031, is a public-private partnership between the nonprofit HHFT Inc. and the state Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation.

Danskammer Officially Pulls Plug

Abandons plan to convert electric plant The owners of the Danskammer electric plant in the Town of Newburgh officially withdrew an application on June 17 for an airquality permit that would have allowed for the

construction of a full-time, gas-fired facility.

The state Department of Environmental

Conservation denied the permit in October 2021. The plant has a permit through April 2025 to operate during peak consumption, which the environmental group Scenic Hudson said amounts to about five days annually.

Danskammer appealed the 2021 ruling and filed a lawsuit. In June 2022, the state Supreme Court upheld the agency's decision. Scenic Hudson, Hudson River Sloop Clearwater and other groups opposed the plan, saying it would contribute to the production of greenhouse gases, which cause climate change, at a time when New York is reducing them.

New York State Buys Philipstown Properties

Purchases to be folded into Fahnestock

N ew York State has purchased 173 acres in Philipstown for \$1.5 million to add to Fahnestock State Park, according to a deed filed June 6 with the Putnam County Clerk's Office.

Two properties on East Mountain Road North and two on Perkins Road in Philipstown were acquired from the Fresh Air Fund, whose 2,000-plus acre holdings include the Sharpe Reservation campgrounds in Fishkill.

New York also purchased, for \$40,000, a 9.5-acre property owned by the Hudson Highlands Land Trust on Route 301, just east of the intersection with Route 9, according to a deed filed on June 17.



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he Current welcomes letters to the editor on its coverage and local issues. Submissions are selected by the editor (including from comments posted to our social media pages) to provide a variety of opinions and voices, and all are subject to editing for accuracy, clarity and length, and to remove personal attacks. Letters may be emailed to editor@ highlandscurrent.org or mailed to The Highlands Current, 142 Main St., Cold Spring, NY 10516. The writer's full name, village or city, and email or phone number must be included, but only the name and village or city will be published. For our complete editorial policies, see highlandscurrent.org/editorial-standards.

LETTERS AND COMMENTS

Climate bills

I appreciate Brian PJ Cronin's coverage of the environmental bills in the state Legislature ("Congestion Toll 'Pause' Upends Climate Bills," June 21), but I wonder why he chose to write of one bill that, in the Assembly, "it came through four committees by comfortable margins but never came up on the floor" without mentioning the person who determines whether a bill comes up on the floor for a vote: Speaker Carl Heastie.

William Irwin, Beacon

Sure enough, our state senator, Rob Rolison, voted against reducing plastic pollution. Not a big surprise, since he refused to co-sponsor the Packaging Reduction Act, which would also have required packaging producers to pay for a significant part of the municipal costs of disposal of plastics.

Yvette Valdés Smith, who is running against Rolison to represent District 39, has promised to support plastic packaging reduction, as well as other pro-environment legislation in our area – unlike Rolison, who votes against all or nearly all environmental legislation.

Heidi Wendel, Nelsonville Editor's note: We asked Dain Pascocello, Rolison's chief of staff, about the senator's voting record on the environment. His response has been condensed. "This year Sen.

6-20

Rolison routinely crossed the aisle to co-sponsor and vote for the following bipartisan measures: The Clean Fuel Standard, Rechargeable Battery Recycling Act, Wildlife Crossing Act, Expansion of Food Donation and Scraps Program, NYC Green Roof Tax Abatement and the ban on PFAS chemicals in menstrual products. Last year he co-sponsored the Save the Hudson Act, which was unanimously passed by the Senate and signed into law.

"Sen. Rolison's passion for protecting the environment and fighting climate change was also reflected in his support in 2024 for major appropriations such as \$400 million for the Environmental Protection Fund, \$500 million for the Clean Water Infrastructure Act and a \$1.6 billion budget for the $state \ Department \ of \ Environmental \ Conser$ vation. He was one of two Senate Republicans to support responsible renewable energy siting to mitigate damage to agricultural lands and reduce future stress on the electric grid. He also voted to add thermalenergy networks to the list of covered renewable energy systems to be eligible for labor protections under New York law."

By pulling congestion pricing at the last minute. Gov. Kathy Hochul is wasting hundreds of thousands of dollars and countless hours of work that were spent

gover 14 02024 OH, YOU DON'T NEED TO FIGHT THEM - YOU JUST NEED TO CONVINCE THE PITCHFORK PEOPLE THAT THE TORCH PEOPLE WANT TO TAKE AWAY THEIR PITCHFORKS.



gearing up for implementation.

She has ripped the Metropolitan Transportation Authority's budget to shreds with no time to create a responsible and considered alternative.

During this legislative session, the NY Heat Act wasn't passed, the Packaging Reduction Act wasn't passed and New York is way behind its planned targets for adding wind power and battery storage. By stopping congestion pricing, Hochul is once again failing to put the needed policies in place to meet New York's mandated emissions targets.

Gov. Hochul, a reminder: You received 53 percent of the vote in 2022. The Environmental Bond measure received 68 percent of the vote. If you want to pander, pander to the voters who want breathable air, clean drinking water and a future where we have put the brakes on global broiling. We are the majority. Allan Spiegel, Cold Spring

It is infuriating and irresponsible that Gov. Hochul has derailed congestion pricing for Manhattan. We are facing more hot and humid days because of climate change; this causes an increase in bad air quality days.

Congestion pricing would immediately positively impact air quality in Manhattan, which would in turn lower the number of emergency-room visits from people with asthma and heart disease. There are far more people walking, biking and riding public transit in Manhattan than there are private vehicle drivers. It's time to improve New York City's air quality and return some of the street real estate to the majority users. Tara Vamos, Cold Spring

Hochul has somehow become a truly awful governor in a very short period of time. Harper Sanchez, via Instagram

Parking lawsuit

This is vile behavior on the part of St. Andrew & St. Luke Episcopal Church ("St. Andrew Floats Church Closure," June 21). It is already subsidized by taxpavers but demands more? I hope it is ordered to repay the city for its legal fees.

Kyra Stoddart, Beacon

That church building would make a sick brewery.

Kieran Roberts, via Instagram

That building is packed with history and culture. We can save it. Let's go! Lesly Canossi, via Instagram

There's a 1910 Tiffany glass window in that church - could be worth more than the whole lot. But great job, City of Beacon, for running this institution out of town. Lori Merhige, via Instagram

(Continued on Page 5)

Parking (from Page 1)

working at the local drive-in theater. When the second movie ended, it was my thankless task to approach the three or four cars parked at the back to inform the occupants that — on the screen, at least — the show was over. Without exception, clearing the steam off the driver's window proved educational.

A typical teen, I was nervous about going to get my driver's license, though I was relieved when the mustachioed, Englishaccented examiner said there would be "no tricks" during my road test.

He immediately had me drive to a side street saying, "Park here."

When I refused, he rather assertively asked what I was doing. "I can't park here, sir; the signs say, 'No Parking Any Time,'" I replied, confidently.

He raised his voice, repeating, "Park here!" to which I replied much less confidently, "I can't, sir; that's illegal."

Red-faced, he had me drive around the

block to the same spot, screaming, "Park here!" Flustered, I left the front wheels the wrong way and forgot to set the parking brake. Back at the testing center, he reminded me, loudly, of his promise of "no tricks." I bit my tongue. Parking was my only mistake. I got my license.

A couple of years later, after a Saturday night movie date, my girlfriend Margaret asked what I'd like to do before taking her home. I suggested we go parking and was delighted when she agreed. As I turned down a backroad outside her hometown, she asked me to pull into the corner gas station, which was closed for the night.

"We can't park here!" I said. Margaret replied that she was fine with parking but not on that road, because she was experiencing a vision: a small car, painted two colors and occupied by two men who frightened her. I peered intently down the pitch-black road. With no moon and from under a bright yard light, seeing anything was impossible. About five minutes later, a small green

In a story in the June 21 issue, we

stated that the Nuclear Regulatory

International, the firm decommissioning

Commission found that Holtec

the Indian Point plant, "was not

from discharging radioactive

spending trust-fund money to lobby

against a bill to prevent the company

wastewater into the Hudson River." In

fact, the NRC said it does not know the

This is not justice. This is complete and

Thanks to Leonard Sparks for his excellent

and thorough report on the child care short-

ages in the Hudson Valley and across the state

("Who Will Watch the Kids?" June 14). He told

the story through the eyes of both the consum-

ers and providers and highlighted the work-

force problems that are at the heart of the

crisis. As a pediatrician who has worked in the area for more than 40 years in private practice

and at the Beacon Community Health Center,

I know how important quality child care is

to the healthy development of young people.

I also wanted to comment on the response

from Kathleen Taylor (June 21). She is

correct about the need for a robust Paid

Family Leave policy in our state and nation

to support parents who want to stay home

with their young children. We're in last place

among developed countries when it comes

to paid family leave. The two programs go

hand-in-hand and allow families to make the choices that meet their personal and

financial circumstances. Supporting fami-

lies in early childhood and allowing them to

make the choices best for them leads to life-

long physical and emotional health benefits.

Debbie DiRubbio, via Instagram

focus of Holtec's lobbying in Albany.

Correction

utter nonsense.

Child care

Datsun, with its driver's door painted brown and two middle-aged men in the front seats, appeared from down the road. The car stopped. The men looked right at us. Margaret's family had certain skills I had doubted until that moment. Our parking plan was abandoned.

While attending the University of Windsor part-time, I didn't buy the expensive student parking pass. Instead, I parked on a side street under a "No Parking" sign. I got caught about twice a week, but tickets were only \$2. My strategy worked well until I went to renew my driver's license and had to pay off \$84 in tickets.

Later, in the full-time world, a colleague told me about a Dodge Aspen that Chrysler somehow lost track of after it was parked in a storage yard. I bought the "brand-new," three-year-old car with zero miles for a song.

The point of all these nonfiction tales? Park at your own peril, and when someone suggests parking is a simple subject, don't believe them.



(Continued from Page 4)

This is unacceptable! This church has a Jardine & Son historic, incredible pipe organ installed in 1860. How can we help? Sarah Terrell, *via Instagram*

Food scraps

This is a wonderful initiative ("Cold Spring Joins Food-Scrap Initiative," June 21). The compounding effect of everyday, individual actions to mitigate global warming cannot be overstated. It takes a village. Thank you! Walter Ulmer, *Cold Spring*

We are so excited about this convenient Kemble Avenue drop. Walk your dog and drop your compost.

Kate Van Voorhees, via Instagram

Looking Back

Chip Rowe does a terrific job with the Looking Back in Beacon column (June 21), which I know takes a lot of work and research. I always look forward to it, especially the entries from 50 years ago. In 1974, I was a reporter at the long-gone Evening News in Beacon, so I get a chance to relive some of the stories I probably worked on. Joseph Sutherland, via Facebook

Cold Spring parking

A \$75 parking ticket is absurd. I frequent Cold Spring often but sometimes it is a twominute visit for coffee and a scone or to run in to buy a quick gift. That was the charm to coming into Cold Spring — not bringing out a phone to scan a QR code to pay parking. I am happy that it at least got reduced from \$4 per hour to \$2 per hour, but this is just one more expense on top of the things that are pleasurable.

Tammara Hays, via Instagram

Convictions

Justice will be served ("Dutchess County Brothers Guilty in Jan. 6 Attack," June 14). Cecile Weiland, *via Instagram*

LETTERS AND COMMENTS

There's solid data to support that. If New York leaders are serious about

making New York welcoming to New York families, they should prioritize expanding and strengthening paid family leave, and make child care and afterschool accessible and affordable to all families, which cannot happen without investing in the child care workforce. For more information about how vital

For more information about how vital family-centered state policies are to young children, visit the Schuyler Center for Analysis and Advocacy at scaany.org. Thank you again for highlighting this issue.

Paul Kaye, Cold Spring



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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Historic District Review Board for the Village of Cold Spring will conduct a public hearing on **Tuesday**, **July 2**, **2024**, **at 7:30 p.m.**, or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, to consider the application by Matthew Beachak, 11 Garden Street, Cold Spring, New York 10516 to add a front porch and a two-storey rear addition to an existing two-storey multi-use building.

The subject property is **133-135 Main Street, Cold Spring, New York, 10516, designated as Tax Map Section 48.8-6-43**. The property is located within the B-1 Zoning District as well as the National Register and Local Historic Districts.

Hard copies of the application materials are available for review in Village Hall, 85 Main Street, Cold Spring, NY 10516 after June 21st, by appointment only. Please call the Village Clerk at 845-265-3611 to make an appointment.

Application materials will also be available to view on the Village website: https://www.coldspringny.gov/historic-district-review-board/pages/ current-applications

Written comment on the application can be delivered to Village Hall, or emailed to the Village Clerk, **vcsclerk@coldspringny.gov**. Written comment must be received by Monday July 1, 2024 to be included in the public record.

The public is welcome to join the hearing via videoconference: https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85246257150?pwd=SHIaMm5rbTRVaVpV S0F1UzIGeFhwZz09

Join by phone: +1 646-876-9923 Meeting ID: 852 4625 7150 Passcode: 005635

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The subject property is **34 Garden Street, Cold Spring, New York, 10516, designated as Tax Map Section 48.8-2-32**. The property is located within the R-O Zoning District and the Local Historic District. The property is owned by Rebecca Sperling and Deborah Little.

Hard copies of the application materials are available for review in Village Hall, 85 Main Street, Cold Spring, NY 10516 after June 21st, by appointment only. Please call the Village Clerk at 845-265-3611 to make an appointment.

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Join by phone: +1 646-876-9923 Meeting ID: 852 4625 7150 Passcode: 005635

By Order Of The Historic District Review Board Albert Zgolinski, Chair

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Photo by J. Simms A rendering of a courtyard in the proposed complex

Downstate closed in 2022.

Downstate Prison (from Page 1)

by Fishkill and the Empire State Development director. Town Supervisor Ozzy Albra, who on Wednesday (June 26) called the proposal a "bad deal for the taxpayers," said he will request that the Fishkill Town Board, rather than the Planning Board, be named the lead agency to review the project and requests for zoning changes. The site is currently zoned for one house per acre.

An Empire State Development representative said the request for proposals issued for the site will remain open until a contract with Conifer is finalized. The agency would not say how many proposals it received.

If the Conifer plan moves forward, the first phase of construction in January 2026 would include 375 housing units, with a minimum of 20 percent designated as "permanently affordable" for households earning less than 80 percent of the area's annual median income. (According to the most recent Census Bureau data, the AMI for a household in Dutchess County is \$94,578.) The complex would include twostory duplexes and triplexes, with at least 25 percent having three bedrooms.

As much as \$8 million in state grants could be available for the project.

Conifer, which has developed more than 21,000 affordable apartments in some 300 communities, said it will engage with local governments and the community to determine the housing plan for the next two phases. The first phase will be rentals but the company said it would consider selling units in the second and third phases of construction.

The state said the development would also feature a playground, a walking trail and common areas. The project advances recommendations of the Prison Redevelopment Commission, a 15-member panel created by Hochul in 2022 to consider repurposing closed prisons.

The commission issued a report that year recommending that the state prioritize housing in its redevelopment efforts. It also recommended that the state launch a program to make grants available to developers and/or municipalities that acquire closed facilities, create a technical assistance fund to help with infrastructure acquisition and maintenance, and support outreach and consensusbuilding in impacted communities.

But Albra said on Wednesday that, if the Downstate project is built as proposed, it would overwhelm Fishkill. The development "would be bigger than the Village of Fishkill, which has its own government," he said.

Albra questioned how Routes 52 and 9D, which are often congested near the Fishkill/Beacon line, could handle an influx of residents living in 1,300 new apartments and homes, even if introduced over several years. That many residents would require a new school, and the site currently has no fire coverage, he said.

In May, the town circulated a draft of a position paper outlining its priorities for the former prison. In the document, officials argued that Downstate would be perfect for commercial development that could "be an economic driver."

If the redevelopment is mixed-use, they requested that Fishkill and Dutchess residents, in that order, be given preference for a third of the units. The paper also advocated asking the state for help with infrastructure, such as water and sewer lines and police coverage. Town Board members will vote on Wednesday (July 3) on a final version to send to Hochul.

Some issues raised by Albra could affect Beacon, too. The former prison is connected to Beacon's water and sewer systems. The city also serves the prison's sanitary sewer system. And without a new school, children living in homes constructed at the site would attend Glenham Elementary, which is in Fishkill but part of the Beacon City School District.

At the same time, Beacon Mayor Lee Kyriacou believes the project could help stem rising housing costs. "Beacon is very popular and people are willing to live nearby," he said. "If there were that many hundreds of units right adjacent to us, I bet it would ease up rents and pricing pressure on home purchases."

Visit highlandscurrent.org for news updates and latest information.

Other Prison Projects

Images provided

- A minority-owned partnership was awarded the right last year to turn the former Lincoln Correctional Facility in New York City into 105 affordable housing units plus arts and community space. The prison closed in 2019.
- New York State last year issued a request for proposals to redevelop **Bayview Correctional Facility in** New York City, with an emphasis on housing.
- Empire State Development has transferred the Livingston Correctional Facility in Groveland to the Livingston County Industrial Development Agency, advancing another recommendation from the Prison Redevelopment Commission's 2022 report.



Montessori School in the former VFW hall.

In other business ...

■ The village office will close at 3 p.m. on Fridays from July 5 through Labor Day.

■ The board approved a Seastreak proposal to dock at Cold Spring on two Saturdays, July 13 and Aug. 10. After visiting the village, the cruises will continue up the Hudson River to Milton for wine tastings.

■ The mayor was authorized to sign permit applications to the state Department of Environmental Conservation and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for repairs to the break wall at the Cold Spring Boat Club. The club, which leases the site from the village, is responsible for maintaining the wall.

By Michael Turtonfor metered parDuring public comment was in short supply
at the public hearing held during the
Wednesday (June 26) meeting of theowner of Doug's
the reasoning
"Why not five"

At the public hearing held during the Wednesday (June 26) meeting of the Cold Spring Village Board on changes to parking regulations. Only two retailers provided feedback.

After the hearing, the board approved changes to the Village Code to formalize revisions approved on June 12. The changes reduced the fee for metered parking on Main Street, which is in effect from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, from \$4 per hour to \$2 per hour. In addition, the board increased the maximum time allowed for metered parking from three to four hours. During public comment, Doug Price, owner of Doug's Pretty Good Pub, asked for the reasoning behind the four-hour limit. "Why not five hours" or longer, he asked, noting that many visitors want to spend the day. "Most people who park on Main Street are not hikers, shoppers or employees."

Notes from the Cold Spring Village Board

Mayor Kathleen Foley said the rationale behind time limits came from the Parking Committee, which was established to make recommendations. She said the board shared the view of the committee that turnover is important.

Craig Muraszewski, owner of The General Store, also advocated an increase

in time limits. "What we're consistently hearing from people is that the four-hour limit is not enough," he said.

Muraszewski said that, as a merchant, he must spend time "handholding" customers, explaining where they can park for free after their paid time expires.

Foley said the village is building a website that will include detailed information about parking throughout Cold Spring. "We're going to get through this season at four hours," she said.

The board also approved a small no-parking zone on Kemble Avenue between Wall Street and The Boulevard to improve sightlines during pickup and drop-off at the Foundry

Utility (from Page 1)

Up to 20 percent of the payout could be used for legal expenses, plus additional funds for administrative fees and taxes. The balance would be distributed in equal amounts to customers who were enrolled in the program as of July 18, 2022.

Customers would be able to opt out of the settlement; if more than 10 percent choose that option, Columbia can withdraw. That would negate a compromise forged during a daylong mediation in April involving the parties, Central Hudson and the state Public Service Commission. After that session, the municipalities concluded that a settlement would be "fair, reasonable, adequate and in the best interests" of the CCA customers, according to settlement documents.

Columbia Utilities had agreed in 2021 to a three-year contract to supply the 10 municipalities with electricity from renewable sources at 6.6 cents per kilowatt-hour for residents and 7.1 cents for small businesses. Residents and businesses were automatically enrolled but could opt out and continue receiving electricity from Central Hudson. According to program administrator

Joule Assets, the 24,000 customers who



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stayed with Hudson Valley Community Power saved about \$7 million before the deal with Columbia Utilities fell apart (including \$941,380 in Philipstown, \$216,050 in Cold Spring and \$651,800 in Beacon) and prevented the release of 25,560 metric tons of the greenhouse gases that cause global warming.

In February 2022, while CCA customers were paying a fixed rate of 6.6 cents per kilowatt-hour, Central Hudson's variable rate rose to more than 20 cents because of Russia's invasion of Ukraine and its effect on energy markets.

That same month, according to the



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31 STEPHANIE LANE COLD SPRING, NY www.thehighlandstudio.com lawsuit, Columbia Utilities began telling Joule and the municipalities that it couldn't fulfill the contract, blaming Central Hudson's ongoing problems with its billing system.

In April 2022, the company notified the Public Service Commission that it intended to transfer CCA customers back to Central Hudson, spurring the lawsuit. Although a judge temporarily barred Columbia Utilities from transferring customers, it happened anyway when the New York Independent System Operator banned the company from the energy markets for failing to post \$3.5 million in collateral to meet creditworthiness requirements.

As part of the settlement, the Public Service Commission will not use claims from the lawsuit to challenge Columbia Utility's effort to re-enter the energy market and allow the company to remain eligible to supply electricity and gas.

Meanwhile, in July 2023, Cold Spring, Nelsonville and Philipstown joined a revived Hudson Valley Community Power that has nine other members (not including Beacon, which opted out) and a new supplier, Direct Energy Services. The contract runs through June 2025.

What Do I Pay?

In Cold Spring, the CCA's default fixed rate for residents and small businesses through June 2025 in Cold Spring is 12.24 cents per kilowatt-hour for 100 percent renewable energy.

In Philipstown and Nelsonville, the default fixed rate is 11.24 cents for 50 percent renewable energy.

The standard fixed CCA rate is 9.87 cents. The variable rate charged by Central Hudson, which continues to handle billing, delivery and repairs, was 7.58 cents on June 12 and has averaged 8.3 cents over the past year. It hit 12 cents in March.

Customers can opt out of the CCA or change their rate by calling Hudson Valley Community Power at 845-859-9099 on weekdays between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m.



Albany: State Plans to Drop Regents Tests

The New York State Education Department released a plan on June 10 that will phase out Regents tests as early as 2025-26 as a requirement for high school diplomas, according to the *Times Union*.

The Board of Regents will receive the proposal in November and is expected to agree to its recommendations. Exams would still be offered but not required for graduation. The proposed change came from a committee of teachers, school leaders, students and members of nonprofit education organizations.

The Regent exams were first offered in New York in 1878. About 25 years ago, the Board of Regents made five of them a requirement for graduation.

The committee also recommended changing the list of required classes to provide more flexibility in math and said high schools should add more practical lessons to curriculums, such as internships and public speaking.

Kingston: Ulster Adopts Pronoun Plan

U lster County Executive Jen Metzger on June 12 announced a preferred name and pronoun plan for county employees, according to the *Daily Freeman*.

Metzger said the plan will "ensure an inclusive work environment in which all employees' identities and pronouns are fully and appropriately reflected and used." She said it "encourages an environment for personal expression, within community standards."

She said employees can notify the county of their preferred first name for email, the phone directory and personnel listings. Employee IDs will show both legal and preferred first names.

Poughkeepsie: Woman May Have Been Victim

Reach serial killer, was charged on June 6 in the death of a Poughkeepsie native, Jessica Taylor, who was killed in 2003.

The body of Taylor was found on Long Island within a mile of those of four victims whose murders were the basis of the original charges against Heuermann.

He was arraigned for the death of Taylor, 20, and another woman, Sandra Costilla, 28, who was killed in 1993.

Newburgh: Merchants Upset with Meters

Merchants are upset with the city's new parking meters, which take credit cards but not coins.

According to *Mid Hudson News*, retailers say the devices are too complicated and deter customers. Mayor Torrance Harvey said officials are reviewing the software to make it more user-friendly but that the city would not go back to coins. He said people who didn't want to pay could park on side streets that don't have meters.

Peekskill: State Police Raid Stores

For the second time in four months, state police raided stores allegedly selling cannabis without a license.

According to the *Peekskill Herald*, troopers on Wednesday (June 26) tagged two stores — the Peekskill Smoke Shop and the South Street Deli — with notices alleging they were selling illegal cannabis. Officers searched a third store, Papi's Secret Stash, but did not issue a notice.

In March, troopers raided a smoke shop on Park Street and the Highland Gourmet Deli. Two retailers that have obtained licenses, Peekskill Cloud 914 and Valley Greens, plan to open later in the summer.

Teller/Fishkill (from Page 1)

repaved, with sidewalks along the corridor to be rebuilt and widened to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Storm drains will be replaced. The traffic signal at Main Street will have a leading interval installed to give pedestrians time to enter the crosswalk before vehicles are given a green light. Lanes for turning onto Main will be improved for trucks negotiating the tight intersection.

A handful of parking spaces will be added on Fishkill Avenue between Main Street and Verplanck Avenue. Crosswalks will be rebuilt and "speed tables" — flat, raised traffic-calming devices — will be installed near Ron's Ice Cream, where vehicles coming from Main can have trouble seeing pedestrians.

The project is expected to be complete by August 2025.

The work was scheduled to begin in 2023, but contractors' bids were nearly twice as high as the \$7 million the city had budgeted. However, the project actually dates back further than last year — much further.

City officials began cobbling together funding to repave the thoroughfare just after the turn of the century. In June 2001, the City Council approved spending \$170,000 for design work on the Teller Avenue stretch. Later that year, the Fishkill Avenue segment was added.

It's difficult to trace the starts and stops since then, but by the economic downturn of 2008, the work had been put on a back burner. Mayor Lee Kyriacou, who served nine terms on the City Council, recalled "more than a couple of times being informed that we were working on it. It was always in the background." City Administrator Chris White said that when he was hired at the end of 2020, the city still needed to acquire easements from about three dozen property owners for the ADA-compliant sidewalks. Anthony "Zep" Thomaselli, who retired as highway superintendent in 2017, stepped forward. "He knew a lot of people and worked with the right-ofway acquisition company to get the necessary paperwork and get things filed," White said.

"When you think about how the rest of the city now looks, this corridor was an outlier. This is going to be transformative."

~ City Administrator Chris White

By late 2022, with the rights-of-way secured, the city was primed to start work. But when the bids came in high, White shortened the project from the Town of Fishkill line to Blackburn. He also removed \$1 million for granite curbs and secured \$2 million in federal transportation aid through Dutchess County.

With a budget of \$9 million — and 95 percent of it coming from state and federal sources — the city put the project out to bid in the spring. This time the bids came in low, leaving White about \$800,000 to "see how much more sidewalk I can buy" toward the Fishkill line.

The City Council had already authorized \$1.2 million to replace a sewer line beneath Fishkill Avenue, and the city penciled \$1 million into its capital pipeline to replace a century-old water line along the same stretch. The council is expected to vote on the expenditure next month.

Once the water and sewer are upgraded, White said the city has funding to pave the final segment next year. That would mean "we get back to the original scope of work, plus some."

Contractors are scheduled to work weekdays from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. Traffic will be disrupted at times, but city officials expect the road to be reasonably clear for end-of-day congestion. When the project is complete, White predicts a significant upgrade.

"When you think about how the rest of the city now looks, this corridor was an outlier," he said. "This is going to be transformative."



Anthony Merante (1943-2024)

Anthony D. Merante, of Cold Spring, passed away at home on Sunday, June 23, 2024.

He was predeceased by his parents, John R Merante Sr. and Sidnee Allyn Merante, as well as his first wife, Hiroko Merante.

Tony is survived by his second wife, Lynda Ann Ewen; his two sons, Ryo and Peter (Christine), two grandsons, Aidan and Matthew, his brothers, William (Diane) and John/Jiggum (Carolyn) and his sister Laura/Lolly as well as nieces and nephews.

Known by some as Ande, and by others as Tony, he was born in New York City on December 17, 1943. His father, John Sr., was a WWII Navy veteran and a police officer for the Cold Spring Police Department. His mother, Sidnee, was a devoted parishioner of St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Cold Spring.

After graduating from Hartwick College in Oneonta, NY, Tony enlisted in the United States Navy, where he served as a cryptologist stationed in Japan during the Vietnam War. It was there that Tony met Hiroko and they started their family. Returning home to Cold Spring in 1970 with Hiroko, Ryo, and Peter, he became a union electrician with Metro-North Commuter Railroad where he worked for over 30 years.

Devoted to serving his community, Tony first became deeply involved in Philipstown volunteering and serving as a coach for Little League and Babe Ruth for over a decade. He then branched out into local politics serving on school, planning and zoning boards, served on the Philipstown Town Council, and was active in the local Democratic Party.

Later in life, Tony reconnected with his former college classmate, Lynda Ann Ewen. Over several years, they bonded from their shared experience of caring for ailing spouses and formed the "Cold Spring Village Commune" (named by Dr. Cynthia Ligenza). Tony and Lynda Ann married in 2023.

A celebration of life will be held at St. Mary's Episcopal Church Hall on Saturday, June 29 at 1 pm.

Funeral Arrangements are under the direction of Clinton Funeral Home- Cold Spring.

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AROUND THE HORN



ALL-STARS — Liam Murphy, a 2024 graduate of Beacon High School, last week was named by area coaches as the Section IX, Class A Player of the Year. Pitcher Mikey Fontaine and outfielder Jackson Atwell joined him on the All-Section team. Photo by Cadence Heeter





BIG-LEAGUE VISIT — Philipstown Little League players who attended a Hudson Valley Renegades game at Heritage Financial Park in Wappingers Falls last month were allowed to run

on the diamond. Photos by Ross Corsair

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"Dialogbject #1 (Alicorn)," by Kieran **Kinsella and Rodger Stevens**



"Artichoke Candleholder (Two Heads)," by Lola Montes



Vessels and platters by Jeremy Anderson

The Calendar

Finding that Manitoga Vibe

Artists visit retreat and return with pieces to fit the space

By Marc Ferris

fter opening a studio on the Upper East Side in 1928, Russel Wright and his wife, Mary, crafted earthtoned home goods by hand, intending to produce them on an industrial scale.

Despite designing for mass-market success, they found inspiration in nature. Their retreat in Philipstown centers on a house and studio situated atop a granite quarry wall just so.

Surrounded by 77 acres of sculpted landscape (Wright moved boulders with a derrick to create a pool and waterfall), the hard-angled glass and wood structures somehow fit seamlessly into the setting.

Mary, a distant cousin of Albert Einstein, contributed to the concept but died in 1952, 10 years before the complex's completion. Wright tinkered with the property until his death in 1976, installing interior artworks that blended natural and artificial elements.

The aesthetic is reflected in this season's annual exhibition at Manitoga, The Source of *Everything*, curated by Kate Orne, publisher of Upstate Diary, an \$18 print magazine with heft that has expanded its editorial focus from the Hudson River Valley to an international gaze. Orne featured Manitoga in 2015 and selected art inspired by nature.

Most of the 20 small works on display in the home and studio are created for their settings. "It's important to respect the space and not overwhelm it," says Orne. "These pieces balance with what Wright created and are a complement to the conversation. not an intrusion."

In years past, Manitoga/The Russel Wright Design Center allowed a visual artist or two to scope out the place for a while and develop site-specific works. For this year's showcase, several artists visited together to absorb the vibe and visualize where their work would be presented.

Three collaborative sculptures by Kieran Kinsella and Rodger Stevens blend



"The Source of Everything," by Sagarika Sundaram

Modern tableware line, introduced in 1939.

Spouts on the creamers, teapots and water pitchers stick out like bird beaks. The style stuck around due in part to its influence and widespread licensing, which Mary helped pioneer and sustain.

Russel Wright, an indefatigable toiler, also lionized leisure. A living paradox, he obsessed on Manitoga and installed a jumble of whimsical juxtapositions between the natural and the artificial.

Interior adornments include hemlock needles mashed into the plaster of one of the house's walls and butterflies pressed between plexiglass screens. After he dabbed sand and epoxy paint onto another wall, a good portion of the grains fell on the floor. He left it up anyway.

"I first came to Manitoga in 2011 and every time I return, I discover something new," says Orne. "The place keeps pulling me back."

Manitoga is located at 584 Route 9D in Philipstown. The Source of Everything is on view Fridays to Mondays through Aug. 19 during 90-minute guided tours. Tickets are \$30 at visitmanitoga.com. Children must be at least 10 years old to attend.



A Visit to **Cold Spring**

A handful of Russel and Mary Wright's creations, along with items he picked up in Asia, are on display at Studio Tashtego on Main Street in Cold Spring.

Stories from a Collection, on view through Aug. 4, features selections from the Russel Wright Design Center's extensive cache of artifacts.

Andy Warhol collected the couple's work. Martha Stewart championed their 1950 book Design for Modern Living, which blasts pretense, praises informality and promotes a democratized design ethos for middle-class homes — including the now-popular "great room" that integrates the kitchen, dining area and living (or family) room.

Many items embrace imperfection, like the two bowls with drip marks in the glazing that, according to the wall label, Russel Wright likely collected in Japan.

Some pieces in a sky-blue tableware line produced in 1952 evoke American Modern's style, but not the sugar bowl with an ill-fitting lid. Several tan plates contain baked-in patterns on the surface that resemble a coating of powdered sugar. One looks like the top of a cake.

The Russel Wright Center seeks other local partners, says Allison Cross, Manitoga's executive director. "Julia [Caldwell, owner of Studio Tashtego] shares a similar passion for textured household items and the notion that good design can enhance people's lifestyles, so this one was easy."

Studio Tashtego, at 158 Main St., is open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Wednesday to Sunday. Call 917-794-4643 or visit studiotashtego.com.

Photos by Carlton Davis

hammered, riveted brass and wood. "Dialogbject #1 (Alicorn)" resembles a tiny xylophone. Other pieces include ceramic artichoke

candleholders by Lola Montes, ceramic sculptures with interlocking panels from Sam Falls, a squat bronze work by Myra Mimlitsch-Gray and Sagarika Sundaram's hand-dved, wool and wire abstract wall hanging.

Stevens also contributes a solo wall sculpture that outlines its title, "Portrait of a Family as a Landscape." Before Mary Wright died, the couple adopted a daughter, Ann, who grew up in the house and runs a catering company in the area.

Jeremy Anderson's work occupies the integrated kitchen and dining room on the home's lower level. His dense, glazed stoneware sculpture, "Piccolo 147," resembles the folds of a rose.

A couple of metallic-looking "Swimming Hole Platters" hark to the water outside the window and to Wright's mass-produced decorative serving plates with a sheen (including a color he called gunmetal, on display in Cold Spring; see right).

Old photos show the kitchen/dining room shelves filled with the couple's most popular and recognizable creation, the American

THE WEEK AHEAD

Edited by Pamela Doan (calendar@highlandscurrent.org) For a complete listing of events, see highlandscurrent.org/calendar.

COMMUNITY

SAT 29

How to Become a U.S. Citizen BEACON

BEACON

11 a.m. Howland Public Library 313 Main St. | 845-831-1134 beaconlibrary.org

Get information about the processes available to immigrants.

SAT 29 H.V. Renegades vs. Wilmington

WAPPINGERS FALLS 7:05 p.m. Heritage Financial Park 1500 Route 9D

845-838-0094 | hvrenegades.com The first 1,000 fans will receive a Spencer Jones bobblehead, and the game will be followed by fireworks. Also SUN 30. On THURS 4, the Yankees minor-league affiliate begins a home stand against the Brooklyn Cyclones before going on the road for two weeks. *Cost \$10.50 to \$28*



WED 3 Oh, Freedom! COLD SPRING

3 p.m. Putnam History Museum 63 Chestnut St. | 845-265-4010 putnamhistorymuseum.org

This is the first of a series of workshops for the Putnam County Quilting Project in which participants will create squares to tell the stories of enslaved people and abolitionists in the Hudson Valley. No sewing or quilting experience necessary. Also July 10.

SAT 6

Nodate Tea Ceremony GARRISON

1 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library 472 Route 403 | 845-424-3020 desmondfishlibrary.org

Members of the Mid-Hudson Japanese Community Association will lead a traditional tea ceremony for guests. Registration required.

KIDS & FAMILY

SAT 29 Play Sets BEACON

10:30 a.m. Dia:Beacon | 3 Beekman St. 845-231-0811 | diaart.org

Families with children ages 5 and older are invited to explore the galleries; in this session, Dia educators will focus on the work of Meg Webster. On SUN 30 it will be Robert Irwin and on SAT 6, Andy Warhol. *Free*

SAT 29 Adventures of the Lost Treasure

GARRISON 1 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library 472 Route 403 | 845-424-3020 desmondfishlibrary.org

Talewise will perform an interactive play and children can sign up for the summer reading program.

FRI 5 Hook

GARRISON

- 2 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library 472 Route 403 | 845-424-3020 desmondfishlibrary.org
- Watch the 1991 movie about a grown-up Peter Pan who returns to Neverland when Captain Hook kidnaps his children.

TALKS

SAT 29 Love and Revolution PHILIPSTOWN

Noon. Magazzino | 2700 Route 9 magazzino.art

As the final part of the museum's summer lecture series, *Evoluzioni: Playing with Form and Tradition in Postwar Italian Culture*, Emily Antenucci, a professor of Italian at Vassar College, will discuss Adele Cambria and her work of feminist political theater, *Nonostante Gramsci. Cost:* \$10

NATURE & OUTDOORS

SAT 29 Butterfly Walk & Talk GARRISON

10 a.m. Location TBA putnamhighlandsaudubon.org

Charlie Roberto will lead this hike through fields and meadows. Register online. Participants will be told where to meet.



10 a.m. Marcia's Mile | 8 Glenclyffe

During this history hike, follow

Arnold's path when he escaped and

learn about how the landscape has

changed. Meet at the trailhead.

which is inside the Route 9D

driveway entrance to the Rec

Center. Cost: \$15 (\$12 members)

putnamhistorymuseum.org

SAT 6 Benedict Arnold's Flight

GARRISON

845-265-4010

VISUAL ARTS

SAT 29 Anne Rorimer

2 p.m. Dia: Beacon | 3 Beekman St. 845-231-0811 | diaart.org

The scholar will discuss the artwork of On Kawara, Blinky Palermo and Lawrence Weiner. *Cost: \$20 (\$18 seniors, \$12 students and visitors with disabilities, \$5 ages 5 to 11, free ages 5 and younger, Beacon residents)*

SAT 6

Back and Forth, Between Names NEWBURGH

4 – 7 p.m. Ann Street Gallery 104 Ann St. | annstreetgallery.org

The summer group show includes works by Philipstown's Matt Frieburghaus and Jaanika Peerna. Through Aug. 25.

SUN 7 Kelly O'Brien |

Robin Adler | Karen Allen BEACON

4:30 p.m. BAU Gallery 506 Main St. | baugallery.org The artists will talk about their work on view at the gallery.

MUSIC

SAT 29

Professor Louie and The Crowmatix PUTNAM VALLEY

7:30 p.m. Tompkins Corners C.C. 729 Peekskill Hollow Road tompkinscorners.org

The Americana-and-roots band will play songs from its latest release, *Strike Up the Band. Cost: \$25*

SAT 29 Sharkey & The Sparks

BEACON

8:30 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St. 845-855-1300 | townecrier.com

Sharkey McEwen and his son, Ben, are joined by a full band to play music from the '60s and '70s, as well as originals. *Cost: \$25 (\$30 door)*

SUN 30

School of Rock Festival MONTGOMERY

Noon – 10 p.m. City Winery 23 Factory St.

Students from the Beacon music school will play sets at this biannual event. *Cost: \$15*

SUN 30

Open Mic Invitational BEACON

6 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St. 845-855-1300 | townecrier.com

Performers from previous open mic nights have been invited to this showcase. *Cost: \$10*



INDEPENDENCE DAY

THURS 4 Celebration

PHILIPSTOWN 10 a.m. Mekeel's Chapel 321 Route 301 putnamhistorymuseum.org Musicians will lead patriotic songs and hymns and there will be a reading of founding papers. Donations welcome. *Free*

THURS 4 Declaration of Independence BEACON

BEACON

11 a.m. City Hall | 1 Municipal Plaza Listen to the annual reading of the founding document organized by Dennis Pavelock.

THURS 4

Fireworks POUGHKEEPSIE

7 p.m. Walkway Over the Hudson 61 Parker Ave. | walkway.org Watch the fireworks over the river from the bridge. *Cost: \$25* (*\$20 members, seniors, veterans, ages 12 and younger free*)

THURS 4

Celebrate Independence PHILIPSTOWN

7 p.m. Boscobel | 1601 Route 9D 845-265-3638 | boscobel.org The Greater Newburgh Symphony Orchestra will perform a concert inspired by fireworks and celebration. Cost: \$55 (\$155 with champagne reception, \$24 children and teens, ages 4 and younger free)

TUES 2 Lyra Concert BEACON

7 p.m. Howland Cultural Center 477 Main St. | 845-831-4988 howlandculturalcenter.org

Faculty artists from the nonprofit classical music center will perform works by Brahms, Cassado, Grant Still, Mendelssohn, Schumann and Vanderveer. *Free*

FRI 5

Feast of Friends

8:30 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St. 845-855-1300 | townecrier.com

The Doors tribute captures the essence of the band's music. *Cost:* \$25 (\$30 door)

THURS 4 Fireworks

BEACON 8:30 p.m. Memorial Park

Robert Cahill Drive | beaconny.gov Bring a chair or blanket to watch the fireworks at dusk.

FRI 5

SAT 6

SAT 6

SAT 6

BEACON

SAT 6

BEACON

Choro das 3

Celebration

7:30 p.m. Trophy Point

The West Point band will

perform, followed by fireworks.

4:30 - 9:30 p.m. Dockside Park

p.m. on Main Street, followed by

food, games, bands and fireworks.

7:30 p.m. Howland Cultural Center

Three Brazilian sisters will play

Choro-style music. Cost: \$5 to \$30

8:30 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.

The modern folk singer and song-

writer will play songs from her most

recent releases. Cost: \$35 (\$40 door)

845-855-1300 | townecrier.com

477 Main St. | 845-831-4988

howlandculturalcenter.org

Cheryl Wheeler

Join or watch the parade at 4:30

westpointband.com

Rain date: SUN 7.

COLD SPRING

Community Day

WEST POINT

Bike Decorating Party COLD SPRING

3 - 4:30 p.m. Butterfield Library 10 Morris Ave. | 845-265-3040 butterfieldlibrary.org Prepare your ride for the Community Day parade.

SAT 6 This Man's a Spy PHILIPSTOWN

6:30 p.m. Boscobel | 1601 Route 9D 845-265-3638 | boscobel.org

Watch a musical about Benedict Arnold and the Revolutionary War, then enjoy a view across the river of the West Point fireworks. *Cost:* \$20 (\$10 ages 4 to 18, ages 4 and younger free)

SUN 7 Lvra Music Benefit with Fei-Fei BEACON

4 p.m. Howland Cultural Center 477 Main St. | 845-831-4988 howlandculturalcenter.org

The pianist's program will include Chopin, Debussy and Rachmaninoff. Donations welcome. Free



SUN 7 **Last Minute Soulmates** BEACON

7 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St. 845-855-1300 | townecrier.com

The Beacon band will play a range of originals and covers. \$15 food and drink minimum. Free

STAGE & SCREEN

SAT 29 Driving Miss Daisy BEACON

6 & 7 p.m. Boats leave dock 845-831-6346 | bannermancastle.org

The theatrical production on Bannerman Island of the Pulitzer-Prize-winning play about the friendship that grows over the years between a Jewish woman and her Black chauffeur stars Emmet Ferris, Cindy Topps and Ron Moorehead. Also SUN 30. Cost: \$72 to \$80

SAT 29 Elemental

POUGHKEEPSIE

7 p.m. Walkway Over the Hudson walkway.org

As part of the Walkway's summer film series, see the 2023 Disney film about the fire, water, air and land residents of Elemental City. Free

SAT 29 By the Queen GARRISON

7:30 p.m.

Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival 2015 Route 9 | 845-265-9575 hvshakespeare.org

Shakespeare's story of the War of the Roses is retold through the perspective of Queen Margaret. Also THURS 4, SUN 7. Through Aug. 31. Cost: \$10 to \$100



SAT 29 9 to 5

COLD SPRING 8:30 p.m. Dockside Park

coldspringfilm.org

The Cold Spring Film Society opens its summer outdoor film series with the 1980 movie starring Dolly Parton, Jane Fonda and Lilv Tomlin as office staff who get revenge on their sexist boss. Bring blankets and chairs. Concessions available. Free

SUN 30 Medea: Re-Versed GARRISON

7:30 p.m. Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival 2015 Route 9 | 845-265-9575 hvshakespeare.org

This is a hip-hop version of Euripides's play with Saren Monae West in the lead. Also FRI 5. Through Sept. 2. Cost: \$10 to \$100

WED 3 The Murder of **Roger Ackroyd** GARRISON

7:30 p.m. Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival

2015 Route 9 | 845-265-9575 hvshakespeare.org

This adaptation of an Agatha Christie novel features Kurt Rhoads and Nance Williamson in lead roles. Also SAT 6. Through Sept. 1. Cost: \$10 to \$100

FRI 5 Lit Lit

BEACON

7 p.m. Howland Cultural Center 477 Main St. | 845-831-4988 howlandculturalcenter.org Read original work in any genre at this literary open mic.

FRI 5 Ms. Holmes & Ms. Watson - Apt. 2B WAPPINGERS FALLS

8 p.m. County Players Theater 2681 W. Main St. | 845-298-1491 countyplayers.org

Enjoy a modern retelling of a Sherlock Holmes mystery with female leads. Also SUN 6 and weekends through July 20. Cost: \$26 (\$24 seniors, students, military, children)

CIVIC

MON 1 **City Council** BEACO

7 p.m. City Hall | 1 Municipal Plaza 845-838-5011 | beaconny.gov

MON 1

School Board BEACON

7 p.m. Beacon High School 101 Matteawan Road 845-838-6900 | beaconk12.org

TUES 2 Putnam Legislature

CARMEL

7 p.m. Historic Courthouse 44 Gleneida Ave. | 845-208-7800 putnamcountyny.com

WED 3

Village Board **COLD SPRING**

7 p.m. Village Hall | 85 Main St. 845-265-3611 | coldspringny.gov

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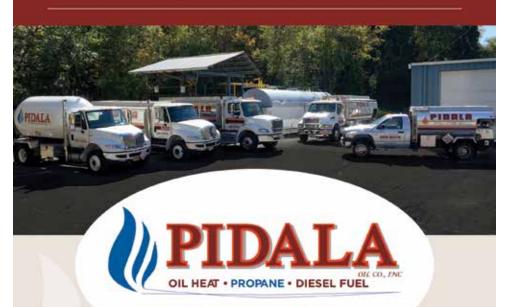
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Wade's Hill, and Notch

concept rendering



Casa Bella Vida makes vanilla similar in flavor to the traditional variety of Mexico.

The \$10 Modern Margarita Coupe holds 14 ounces.



These risers made of mango wood come in black or stone.



Artisans in the Bolgatanga region of Ghana weave these \$54 bags from elephant grass.

World Showcase

Cold Spring shop stocks global imports By Marc Ferris

G ina Larson is one of those people who must always be doing something, anything. A few years ago, she "disliked being too comfortable" and completed two Ironman triathlons (swimming 2.4 miles, biking 112 miles and running a marathon).

She and husband Brian Stoller studied Mandarin in college and, when his work took them to Hong Kong, they traveled whenever possible and became enamored with the design aesthetic from that side of the globe.

On June 15, Larson opened Brass Monkey Home, which specializes in exports from exotic locales, on the other side of the tracks in Cold Spring. It occupies the former home of Suzi Tortora's dance studio, which moved near the post office.

During the couple's travels, "we saw items we'd never be able to find back at home," says Larson, who lives in northern Westchester. "It took us a long time to have the guts and courage to develop the sourcing and relationships to bring them here. It's also the right space, which is a key component."

The expansive room with a skyscape

mural on the ceiling is filled with imports from around the world but not as many as Larson ordered. In the coming weeks, furniture will begin to fill the showroom; because of turmoil in the Red Sea, the shipper is taking the long haul around the Horn of Africa to avoid the Suez Canal.

A carved wood table from India joins placemats from Colombia, rattan from Bali and fine furniture from North Carolina. Bamboo is another recurring motif and material. In the small nook just inside the front door, Larson showcases a rotating crop of pantry pop-ups. This summer, it's foodstuffs from Oaxaca, Mexico.

During her youth, Larson rocked out to punk's third wave, played keyboard in a band and adopted the black-clad, paintedeye makeup look. ("Now, I'm a soccer mom," she says.) The store's name pays homage to the Beastie Boys' first charting single, which reached 48 on the Billboard Hot 100 in 1987. For Brits, in particular, the term is a risqué way to refer to cold weather; it's also the name for at least two mixed drinks.

Two years ago, Larson founded Brass Monkey Creative, a PR and event-planning firm that specializes in the California cannabis industry and orchestrates weddings, corporate functions and other formal occasions. For this admitted Type A personal-



Gina Larson poses outside Brass Monkey Home, which opened in May. Photo by M. Ferris

ity, when there's downtime at the store, she tends to her creative work on her laptop.

Larson views the space as a showcase for her events and seeks to partner with venues to rent napkin holders, glasses and other tableware.

"Some people like to create a custom look and not use what the place has in stock, which is usually pretty vanilla," she says. "If you want green glasses or pink napkins, for instance, you're going to have to source them."

Despite the recent searing heat, learning the

retail ropes, waiting for shipments and occupying a corner that lacks an established retail history, Larson is happy to keep busy.

"We're in the learning curve and we're going to make a lot of mistakes," she says. "The shipping delays are forcing us to plan far ahead and it's going to take a couple of years to iron out all the kinks."

Brass Monkey Home, at 26 Main St. in Cold Spring, is open daily. See brassmonkeyhome.com or call 845-393-0090.



MON 8, 7 P.M. *The Summer Book*, by Tove Jansson Stanza Books, Beacon Register at stanzabooks.com/events.

Fantasy Book Club TUES 9, 7 P.M. *Nightrunner 2: Stalking Darkness*, by Lynn Flewelling Stanza Books, Beacon Register at stanzabooks.com/events.

Abe Lincoln/Civil War Book Club THURS 11, 7 P.M.

Team of Rivals, by Doris Kearns Goodwin Lincoln Depot Museum, 10 S. Water St., Peekskill Email LincolnDepotFDN@gmail.com.

Sci-Fi Book Club

TUES 16, 7 P.M. *Convergence Problems,* by Wole Talabi Stanza Books, Beacon Register at stanzabooks.com/events.

Page-to-Screen Book Club THURS 18, 3 P.M. The Dinner, by Herman Koch Desmond-Fish Library, Garrison Register at desmondfishlibrary.org/events.

Howland Book Club

TUES 23, 2 P.M. Remarkably Bright Creatures, by Shelby Van Pel Howland Library, Beacon Register at beaconlibrary.org.

Butterfield Book Club

MON 29, 7 P.M. Hateship, Friendship, Courtship, Loveship, Marriage, by Alice Munro Butterfield Library, Cold Spring Register at butterfieldlibrary.org/calendar. Pandullo David

Does the Man Owe You Money?

\$7.3 million in unclaimed funds due Highlands residents

By Chip Rowe

very so often, we publish a list of some of the thousands of people and businesses in the Highlands who are owed money by New York State. Companies are required by law to report dormant accounts to the state and, if the owner can't be located, turn over the funds to the comptroller. The agency maintains a public database of these "unclaimed funds" - utility refunds, the balance of forgotten bank accounts, stock dividends, insurance payouts, security deposits, unused gift cards - to match lost money with lost people.

According to the state, there are 2,625 dormant accounts owed to current and former Cold Spring and Philipstown residents and businesses, with a value of \$1.8 million; 1,887 accounts worth \$1.3 million owed to Garrison residents; and 8,041 accounts worth \$4.2 million owed to Beacon residents, for a total of \$7.3 million.

You can search for your name or business at ouf.osc.state.ny.us/ouf. If you are owed money, or you are next of kin, complete a form that can usually be submitted online but in some cases must be mailed. Call 800-221-9311 with questions. To search for funds in other states, see missingmoney.com. The list below contains names added to the state database in 2023.

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Cold Spring/

Philipstown 234 Main Llc 711 La Shinju Llc Adams Tracey Albanese Robert Altmann Joseph Altucher James Angerame Patricia Anthoine Alison Arnold Elizabeth Bach Gabi Bach Gertrude Bacon Paula Bakall S R **Barnes** Chastity Beachak Claudine Belica Patrick Beltran Jose Benders Books Llc Bennett Brandy Berner Emilie Berner Isabelle Berner Nathaniel Berner Richard Berner Thomas **Bickford Robert Bischoff William** Blue Devil Booster Club Blumberg Daniel Bradley Fay Braga Luis Brennan Terence Brill Ralph **Bvrne** Livea Cain Amy Cain Jonathon Callaghan Christian Canesa Louise Cannova Caryn Carlock Anne Carone Giancarlo Carr Evelyn Casey John Chadwick Caitlin Chadwick Walter Chandler Joseph Choudry Eelaaf Coleman Christopher Coleman Stefanie Collins James Connor Hudson Andrea Cordero Grisel **Crs** International Curtin Richard Daly Charles Decaro Kathleen Demers Mary Dengler Alex Deos Anthony

Digiglio Joseph Dintiman Robin Donald Sr Mead Estate Donner Alexander Donovan Terence Downey Oil Draper Simon Drogin Management **Dubiel** Ashlev Dubiel Mark Duggan John Duran Alelur Dwyer Sally Eaton William Egger Jacklynn Eldin Adnan Elias Jason Ellis Adrian Ellis Elizabeth Eltaher Julie Elvin Alburn **Engstrom Janet** Farinelli James Farmer Roderick Favre Auto Body Fisher Michael Fitzgerald Raymond Flanagan James Foley Audrey Follis Diane Foreman Joshua Foti Joseph Garcia Ruben Gariepv Steven Garrison Rebecca Geraty Raymond Glynn Christopher Gordon Tennant Courtney Goudreau Fabien Granograndetti Llc Grey Printing Gronau Michele Guillaro Paul Haber Philip Haldane School District Hall Linda Muir Erin Harms Henry Hart Norah Harte Norah Haviland Debbie Hawkins Evan Heady Maryanne Heffernan Phillip Ng Vivian Hilpert Luke Hinnenkamp Miranda Holmes Nicholas Hudson River Outfitters Hudson Valley Shakes Hull Jonathan

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Schwartz Jonathan

Scozzafava Edward

Scroggins Marlena

Seeg Peter Estate

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Searles Daniel

Seegler Mark

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Sugg Richard

St John Mary

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Romanelli Leonard

Ruffin Christophe

Sullivan Anna Sullivan Cornelius Sullivan Yvette Suttlehan Jacqueline Sweeney Norman Sylvester Peter Tatur Stanley Taylor Patricia Taylor Sharon Tchernichovski Aviv Tec Land Surveying Teelucksingh Zenobia Tejada Jose Terry Schappert Inc Terway Timothy Thess Marvanne Thid Andreas Thompson Azia Thompson Gary Thorn Glroia Thorn Marianne Estate Tietie Michelle Tiga Llc Tillison Craig Tolliver Otis Tomcho Braden Tomecek Pavel **Tompkins** Terrace Torres Cecilio Torres Rivera Carolina Townsend Brooke Trecka Mark Troust Justin Tulchin Jay Turcy James Tweegs Inc Umano Helen Estate Urso James Vanderlyn Wendy Vardy Peter Vargas Darlene Vassell Ricardo Vaughn Maria Verdi Caroline Verdile Damian Vermilyea Cherin Vermilyea George Vetro Kyle Viera Gladys Viglietta Vanessa Vilt Kimberly Virga Michael Vogel Pharmacy Vogrincic Nestor Wade Carolvn Waibsnaider Noha Wake Paloma Walker Martha Waller Angel Waller Codey Waller Indva Walsh Sheila Watson William Trust Way Howard Weaver Matthew Weglinski Thomas Welch Mary Welch Patricia Wells Brian Wendt Daisy Werther Janet West Lois Weymes Helen White Thomas Whitted Jahreal Williams Eleanor Williams James Williams Robert Williams Tamara Williamson Cader Wilson Candace Wilson Jana Wilson Ramon Wohlfahrt Wilson Wolfe Logan Wong Janet Wood Allison Wood Robert Wrazen Robert Wright Kenneth Wright Wendell Wyatt Deneene Wyatt Jamal Wynn Glynis Xu Sulan Yanis Corinne Yapp Maurice Young Coulter Zacher Richard Zakhary Daniel Zen Mommas Llc Zheng Dan Zhu Min Zimmerman Russell Zinman Phoebe Zukowski Adriana

FOR SALE

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COLD SPRING – Approximately 460-square-foot office in well-maintained professional building (The Carriage House) in the Village of Cold Spring. Ideal for solo use or as shared space with a quiet professional. Within walking distance of train with ample on-site private parking. Available immediately. Call Kevin at 845-265-2683.

BEACON – Professional private office in quiet and bright corner office available off Main Street in Beacon. Professional building with adjacent parking lot on Rombout Avenue. 250 square feet with a private bathroom. Amenities include a lobby for customers or clients. Utilities included heat, air conditioning and WiFi. All inclusive \$1,250 monthly. 1-year lease available. Email info@rocpilates.net.

COLD SPRING - Studio apartment in the

Current Classifieds

heart of the village, 4-minute walk to train, AC, MW, DW, off-street parking available. No pets/ smoking. \$1,125/mo + utilities, 2 months security. Call Bill at 845-380-1108.

COLD SPRING - Looking for a turn-key place to stay in the Hudson Valley? We offer furnished rentals in the heart of Cold Spring, 2- and 3-bedroom units; WD/AC/DW; \$3,800 to \$5,500 per month; 4-minute walk to train; off-street parking available; 1 month security deposit; discounted utilities; no smoking. Call Jim at 917-348-3300.

HELP WANTED

TEACHER ASSISTANTS – The Community Nursery School and Learning Center (10 Academy St., Cold Spring) is hiring teacher assistants and substitutes for the upcoming school year. School hours are mornings beginning mid-September. All interested parties are asked to reach out by e-mail to communitynurseryschoolcs50@gmail.com.

CLEANING SERVICE — The Highlands Current

is looking for an individual or service to clean our small office (about 48x15, plus kitchen and bathroom) on Main Street in Cold Spring twice a month, including kitchen and bathroom. Payment can include advertising credit if desired. Email editor@highlandscurrent.org.

CARPENTERS – Immediate full-time employment for experienced and skilled carpenters. Good pay and a great work environment for the right candidate. Looking for someone who has experience working with layout, blueprint reading and working with high-value materials. Positive attitude and good physical condition are a must. Starting salary \$45/hr. Please send resume to: Maggie@rrshea.com.

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MARKETS

COLD SPRING – July 13 & Aug. 10. Over 50 designers, makers, artisans and artists will be displaying and selling their amazing work. Free admission! Live music, food trucks and all happening on the beautiful grounds of St. Mary's Episcopal Church. You can take the train to this event. Just a short walk. Dog friendly and rain or shine. For more info, go to HopsontheHudson. com and click on Modern Makers Market.

TAG SALE? Car for sale? Space for rent? Help wanted? Place your ad here for \$9.95. See highlandscurrent.org/classifieds.

NOTICE

The Philipstown Zoning Board of Appeals will hold their regular monthly meeting on Monday, July 8th, 2024 at 7:30 p.m. at the Philipstown Town Hall, 238 Main St., Cold Spring, NY.

If you are unable to join in person but would like to watch, the meeting will be livestreaming on youtube.com, search for Philipstown Zoning Board July 2024.

NOTICE

The Philipstown Conservation Board will hold their regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, July 9th, 2024 at 7:30 p.m. at the Philipstown Town Hall, 238 Main St., Cold Spring, NY.

If you are unable to join in person but would like to watch, the meeting will be livestreaming on youtube. com, search for Philipstown Conservation Board July 2024.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

PHILIPSTOWN ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS Public Hearing - July 8th, 2024

The Philipstown Zoning Board of Appeals for the Town of Philipstown, New York will hold a public hearing on Monday, July 8th, 2024 starting at 7:30 p.m. to hear the following appeal. The meeting will be held in person at the Philipstown Town Hall, 238 Main St., Cold Spring, NY.

Vasta, 9 Cliffside Court, Garrison, NY 10524, TM#82.20-2-38 Applicant is seeking a variance for a driveway within steep slopes.

At said hearing all persons will have the right to be heard. Copies of the application, plat map, and other related materials may be seen in the Office of the Building Department, 2 Cedar Street, Cold Spring, New York or by visiting the following link on the Town of Philipstown website.

https://sites.google.com/philipstown.com/townofphilipstown/june

Dated June 10th, 2024 Robert Dee, Chair of the Town of Philipstown Zoning Board of Appeals

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11. Anon

16. Baby carriage

20. Actress Hagen

24. Mauna -

27. Prattle

29. Sushi fish

32. Archrivals

37. – Diego

42. Surrenders

44. Mopes

48. Bound

25. Roundabout

30. Great weight

34. Brunch cocktails

39. Monopoly cubes

45. Poet Teasdale

46. Idle of Monty Python

49. Golden State sch.

50. Editor's "keep it"

53. UFO crew

23. Suntan lotion letters

Puzzles

CROSSCURRENT

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12					13				14			
15				16					17			
18			\square				19	20				
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31			32		33		34		35			
36				37		38		39		40		
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45	46						47			48	49	50
51					52	53						
54					55				56			
57					58				59			

SUDO CURRENT

3		1						
	8				4		9	
							6	
	3	7	5					2
8								
	9		2			6	3	
5		4		2	8			
5 6				1		4		3
						8		

ACROSS

- 1. Mortgage again, for short 5. Carried out
- 8. Classic Fords
- 12. Golf bag item
- 13. King, in Cannes
- 14. Black-and-white cookie
- 15. Candidate
- 17. Texas city
- 18. Fall flowers
- 19. Activate
- 21. Wee bit
- 22. Elevator name
- 23. Enjoy the Alps
- 26. *Family Guy* daughter
- 28. "Have —!"31. Teller's partner
- 33. '60s war zone
- 35. Canyon sound
- 36. Loses color
- 38. eBay offer
- 40. Badge metal
- 41. Computer debut of 1998

WORDLADDER

Can you go from MODES to PETAL in 6 words? Change one letter for each rung in the ladder.

MODES

PETAL

© 2024 King Features

E	Α	R	L		Ρ	Н	0		Н	Т	Т	Ρ	5	9	6	8	1	3	2	4	7	FORT
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С	0	В	W	Е	В	S		Ρ	U	Ρ	Ρ	Υ	1	6	8	9	4	5	7	3	2	PALES
			Н	Α	S		В	Α	Ν					0	_		-	5	1			PAVES
Ρ	U	G	Е	Т		R	Е	D		Т	Ι	Α	8	4	5	3	7	1	9	2	6	CAVES
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0	Ν	Е	S		Н	А	Y		А	U	Т	0	1	3	9	2	8	6	1	5	4	RAGED

For interactive games and crossword answers, see highlandscurrent.org/puzzles.

- 43. Wrong (Pref.)45. Tranquil47. Circular window
- 51. War god
- 52. Cancel a choice 54. Pudding variety
- 55. Greek H
- 56. Hardy cabbage
- 57. Deeds
- 58. Radiator sound
- 59. Lovers' quarrel

DOWN

- 1. Morning co-host Kelly
- 2. Messes up
- 3. Yard fraction
- 4. Map within a map
- 5. City on the Elbe
- 6. Winter Games org.
- 7. "Same here"
- 8. Like some jeans
- 9. Cut across
- 10. 1920s art style

Answers for June 21 Puzzles

WordSearch

R	В	Е	R	L	I	Ν	Н	Ρ	К
F	L	W	F	U	Ζ	Y	Е	А	Е
L	V	0	Ρ	Ρ	D	0	L	R	А
W	В	I	Ν	L	Н	А	S	Т	Т
А	R	J	Е	D	0	F	Т	S	Н
R	М	0	М	Ν	0	G	Ν	S	Е
S	Ρ	Q	М	Н	Ν	Ν	К	М	Ν
А	F	Ν	А	Е	Е	А	Т	А	S
W	L	I	S	В	0	Ν	V	Х	Ζ
T	I	Y	М	А	D	R	I.	D	Х



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Andres Antolinez examines spotted lanternflies.

A lanternfly trap with tree of heaven in a mesh bag

Out There

he first time I opened the fridge at Cornell University's Hudson Valley Research Laboratory, it was full of stink bugs.

This was a feature, not a bug (sorry). It was 2018, and the researchers were studying ways to control the burgeoning invasive brown marmorated stink bugs, which were stored in dozens of round, clear containers. Some held stink bugs, and some held stink bugs and samurai wasps, which parasitize stink-bug eggs.

Earlier this month, I returned to the lab in Highland and again opened the fridge. The stink bugs were gone. In their place were mesh containers with Ailanthus altissima plants (tree of heaven) and black beetles with white spots. The beetles would become the large, colorful spotted lanternfly that people are encouraged to squash.

"We want to know what the best conditions are for growing the insects," said entomologist Andres Antolinez. "Once we master that, we'll start testing" how to destroy them.

Controlling spotted lanternflies is a relatively new field of study. In Asia, parasitoid wasps, like samurai wasps and stink bugs, keep the population in check. Although praying mantises and assassin bugs will eat lanternflies, the insects have no natural predators in the U.S.

The spotted lanternfly showed up in Pennsylvania 10 years ago in a shipment of ornamental garden rocks. It feeds by sucking sap from plants and smooth-barked trees. The forest managers I spoke with when the bugs invaded New York were terrified that they would devastate our maples and black walnuts.

The good news is that our forests can

SPOT THE PEST

By Brian PJ Cronin

withstand lanternfly damage. Grape vines, however, are less resistant, which threatens the Hudson Valley wine industry. "You can lose 80 percent of your crop," said Antolinez. "That's a lot of money."

Lanternflies also like apples; the bugs secrete a sweet substance called honeydew that can turn into sooty mold, ruining the fruit. Antolinez worries that U-pickers might be turned off by swarms of enormous, winged insects spreading goo.

Pesticides are an option, but they are expensive and attack beneficial insects. So the Cornell lab has been



Antolinez shows off a \$7 spotted lanternfly trap.

Photos by B. Cronin

experimenting with low-tech solutions in its acres of grape and apple plantings.

Stepping outside, Antolinez showed me a contraption attached to tree of heaven near the parking lot: a plastic jar and net. I joked that the jar looked like the tubs that hold peanut butter-filled pretzel nuggets. "That's exactly what they are," he said. "You can buy a trap like this for \$33. We make them ourselves for \$7." Antolinez said the traps catch hundreds of lanternflies a week.

There's another peanut butter connection. Tree of heaven is the lanternfly's favorite food and, like the bug itself, it's an invasive. Gardeners are encouraged to dig it up, but the plant resembles native black walnuts and sumacs. To make sure it's tree of heaven. Antolinez suggests crushing a leaf. If it reeks of rotten peanut butter, it's tree of heaven.

One way to use tree of heaven against lanternflies is to plant a perimeter around a field of grape vines and only spray the tree of heaven with pesticides. But that can be risky, because tree of heaven spreads fast. Antolinez showed me another way: traps similar to the plastic-jar contraption, mounted on poles, with a mesh bag filled with diced tree of heaven trunks. Lanternflies are drawn to the pole, which is covered in sticky tape. A plastic cone over the tape minimizes the amount of other instincts or birds who might get ensnared.

Antolinez said the spotted lanternfly population has exploded this year in Orange and Rockland counties and, although it seems to be lagging in Dutchess and Putnam, he believes the pest is hiding out in the deeply forested sections of the Highlands. Still, he's optimistic it can be controlled.

"We can't go back," he said. "It's here to stay. But we can learn how to adapt."